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Reclamation's Museum Property

In addition to making contemporary contributions to the understanding of North American prehistory, Reclamation's 50 years of dam good archeological research* preserved a substantial collection of artifactual material that continues to be available for research and exhibit.

In 1990, the Department of the Interior Inspector General found that the Department, including Reclamation, was not in control of its art work and artifacts. Working under Departmental requirements for museum property that were put in place in 1993, Reclamation is well along in its commitment to reach accountability for all identifiable collections by the end of fiscal year 2003.

Although Reclamation's museum property includes items from a number of subject areas, e.g., the

mission of the bureau, art, paleontology, and zoology, the vast majority is prehistoric objects.

At the end of October 1999, Reclamation had:

- verified museum property in 61 non-federal and 2 federal repositories and in 40 Reclamation offices;
- determined that the collections include 2,315,016 archeological objects/lots which have been catalogued into the repository's or a Reclamation system, and that an estimated 3,800,000 archeological objects/lots remain to be catalogued;
- found that associated with these objects/lots are more than 1,000,000 individual and 775 linear feet of documents; and
- expended more than \$6,638,523 to locate, catalogue, and bring collections to acceptable standards.

For additional information on Reclamation's Museum Property Program, contact Bobbie Ferguson on 303-445-2707 or at specialstranger-superscript.

Research conducted primarily under the River Basin

Surveys program, the Reservoir Salvage

Act/Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, the

National Historic Preservation Act, and the

Archeological Resources Protection Act.

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16 CRM No 1—2000